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## CUTTING WAR TAXES

### Action of the Ways and Means Committee.

### BLOW TO RECIPROCITY WITH CUBA

### No Prospect of Tariff Concessions.

### THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The republican leaders of the House today handed the Cubans a stone as answer to their appeal for bread. This was the effect—and the intention—of the decision of the committee on ways and means to cease further consideration of Cuban reciprocity and to immediately report a bill repealing all the war taxes, amounting to \$77,000,000.

With this great reduction of the revenues of the government made, it will be argued hereafter against Cuban reciprocity, and against all other propositions for reciprocity that it is not advisable to further reduce the revenues from customs duties.

**Speaker Henderson's Suggestion.**  
The high protectionists of the ways and means committee were quick to follow Speaker Henderson's recent suggestion to reduce the war taxes instead of in any way touching the tariff. Mr. Dalczell and Mr. Grosvenor, with the Speaker, form the majority of the committee on ways and means, which is the legislative body of the House, are also members of the committee on ways and means, and since the Speaker came out in favor of the reduction as against tariff amendment they have been firm opponents of the proposition.

The high protectionists have interposed themselves in what they now consider an impregnable position. They have taken a great mass of testimony in support of the home sugar industry, which they will put forward in support of their refusal to reduce the tariff on Cuban products. They will also urge the necessity of maintaining the customs revenues and will insist that if a policy of reduction is entered upon the administration must maintain the Senate will have to take the responsibility.

**Waiting for Pressure.**  
It is conceded on all sides that they have plumped themselves solidly down in a dogged determination to sit it out and wait for that "administration pressure" to budge them.

Whether they can be budged is very doubtful. Public opinion is strong against them; great protectionist newspapers, like the New York Tribune, the Philadelphia Press, the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Inter-Ocean have come out in support of Cuban reciprocity. Thus far, however, the contention of the beet refiners has undoubtedly prevailed with the committee.

**Right to Negotiate Reciprocity Treaties.**  
Following closely upon today's action another step was taken in the direction of further "tying up" the reciprocity advocates. Mr. Tawney of Minnesota introduced a resolution, directing the committee on ways and means to consider and investigate the right of the President and the Senate to negotiate reciprocity treaties with the House treaties which change tariff rates.

As is well known, some senators hold that the Senate can negotiate reciprocity treaties and that it is not necessary to comply with the provisions of the Dingley act requiring such treaties to be submitted to the House.

**Action of the Committee.**  
The ways and means committee today adopted the following resolution:

"That the chairman be instructed to prepare a bill repealing all the remaining war revenue taxes (except the tax upon mixed flour), viz., the additional taxes imposed by the act of June 13, 1898, entitled 'An act to provide ways and means for the payment of sundry claims and for other purposes,' and the act of March 2, 1901, amendatory thereto, and to report the same to the committee on an early date."

The exception is the tax on mixed flour. Chairman Payne made the following statement of the committee's action:

"The republican members of the committee on ways and means have been considering informally a question of war revenue reduction for some time past, and have been delaying action to receive reports from the commissioner of internal revenue, showing the exact amount derived from war taxes for the first six months of the year ending June 30, 1902, and a report on the reduction of the revenue under the act of June 13, 1898, and the act of March 2, 1901, amendatory thereto, and to report the same to the committee on an early date."

The report showed that the collections under this act, as amended, for this six months' period were a trifle over \$34,000,000, which would make a reduction of \$20,000,000 per annum. It will be remembered that the collections under this law for the previous fiscal year were \$107,646,000, and that the collections for the fiscal year 1901 were \$107,646,000.

The annual increase, as compared with previous years, would make the revenue for the fiscal year 1902, less the \$20,000,000 reduction, or \$87,646,000, leaving the net revenue from this act for the present year \$67,646,000.

The treasury has now an available cash balance of something over \$174,000,000. It is not likely that this will be increased materially during the present year, and as the treasury is buying bonds at a rate that will use up the surplus to accumulate between the first of July and the first of June, 1903, next. The Secretary of the Treasury report estimated a surplus for the year of \$100,000,000, and subsequent reports seem to confirm this estimate.

**Reduction of \$77,000,000.**  
The committee therefore thought it was entirely safe to repeal the remainder of the war revenue taxes, amounting to \$78,000,000, and the tax on tea of \$9,000,000, in the aggregate \$77,000,000, at this time. This will still leave a surplus estimated upon the revenue receipts and expense of twenty-two or three million dollars for the year, while we will start upon the next fiscal year with \$174,000,000 available cash in the treasury. The committee deem it wise to have the repeal of the tax on tea take effect on the 1st of January next, in order to enable those, especially retailers and small dealers, who have small stocks of the dutypaid goods on hand to dispose of them before the repeal takes effect.

"We can provide a rebate on the tobacco tax and guard against any fraud upon the revenue for the reason that the internal revenue department has this trade under close surveillance and can and will take an account of the stock in the dealers' hands on the 1st of July next. But the rebate will be impossible as to teas, which come in at the customs house, and of which the government has no record, as they are imported in large quantities by the importers. Continuing the tea tax to the 1st of January will give us six months' revenue from the tea tax, and we will have made the ultimate reduction for the next year considerably less than \$75,000,000. The

No. 15,266.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1902—SIXTEEN PAGES.

TWO CENTS.

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### Daring Escape From Jail of Two Condemned Murderers.

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McGeary hastened to the cell with the medicine, when John Biddle sprang through the opening in the cell, and seizing the guard around the waist, hurled him over the railing to the stone floor beneath, a distance of sixteen feet.

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## PERSONAL TAX BILL

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### NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED

### Provision for Exemptions of Gross Earnings of Savings Banks.

### THE REPORT SUBMITTED

The District Commissioners today transmitted to Senator James McMillan, the chairman of the Senate District committee, a favorable report on the personal